Abstract

Chapter One of Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design by Carol Ann Tominson and Jay McTighe distinguishes the differences between Understanding by Design (UbD) and Differentiation Instruction (DI), while providing you with reasons why they work so well together. UbD (mostly) answers the questions of what and how, “what we teach and what assessment evidence we need to collect” (pg2). DI focuses on those being taught; getting to know “whom we teach, where we teach, and how we teach)” (pg 3). The chapter also explains the differences of axioms and corollaries and how each effect UbD and DI methods of teaching. The axioms are “fundamental priniciples of” Ubd, while “corollaries demonstrate the way in which DI works to ensure that each student will have access to and support for success with the axioms” (pg3). This chapter concludes with examples of the different axioms and corollaries to ensure the understanding by the reader.

Synthesis

As we know kids come in many different sizes, shapes, colors, multiple intelligences, learning styles and as teachers we are suppose to be able to cater to the individual without putting the class at risk. This is where the methods of UbD and DI can be so helpful. In reading through the blogs of my peers the most prominent theme was that of understanding how the UbD and DI models will help us in preparing to understand the world of teaching. As we can all agree there are more that goes into a lesson plan that we had realized. The book tells us that “UbD is a way of thinking, not a program” (pg10). As Jon states” in order to succeed as a teacher it is [imperative] that I be as flexible as possible”. Knowing how to adapt to your students and appeal to all of them will be the most important and difficult challenge that you will be faced with as a teacher. Coming up with interesting and engaging lesson plans will help ensure that your students will want to learn and get excited about it as well.

<http://free.ed.gov/>

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~hrallis/courses/3204fa06/assignments/lessonplanning/ubd_template.htm>

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~Amy Jones